

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIEP-01 COME-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01 INT-05 L-02 NSC-05

OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00

FRB-03 /089 W

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R 252000Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7017

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY QUITO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OPEC, JM

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER MANLEY OPENS OLADE MEETING

REF: KINGSTON A-12 DATED FEB 7, 1975.

1. SPEAKING IN LOW KEY FASHION, PM MANLEY OPENED 5-DAY OLADE CONFERENCE BY ASKING ITS MEMBERS TO ASSIST THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS OF THE POORER COUNTRIES WHICH WERE CAUSED BY HIGHER OIL PRICES. HE ASKED FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR THOSE COUNTRIES (I.E. JAMAICA) WHO DID NOT HAVE THEIR OWN SOURCES OF ENERGY, EITHER OIL OR HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER. ALTHOUGH JAMAICA SUPPORTED THE ESSENTIAL JUSTICE OF THE OPEC POSITION, THE SITUATION OF THE POORER COUNTRIES WAS ONE OF "LIFE AND DEATH" AND THEIR SURVIVAL WAS ONLY AT THE COST OF SHORT TERM BORROWING AT HIGH INTEREST RATES.

2. MANLEY SAID OLADE WAS IN UNIQUE

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POSITION TO CONSIDER

SOLUTIONS SINCE ORGANIZATION INCLUDED BOTH PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS OF ENERGY. HE CALLED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES AND SUGGESTED THAT PRIORITY BE GIVEN TO REGION'S HYDRO-ELECTRIC RESOURCES. CONFERENCE IS ATTENDED BY REPS OF 24 COUNTRIES, AND FACT MEETING BEING HELD IN KINGSTON CONSIDERED LOCALLY AS PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT OF GOJ MINISTER OF MINING AND NATURAL RESOURCES ALLAN ISAACS. ACCORDING TO PRESS, IN ADDITION TO OLADE MATTERS SUCH AS FUNDING OF ORGANIZATION, CONFERENCE EXPECTED TO DEBATE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR SUPPORT OF VENEZUELA'S AND ECUADOR'S POSITION ON U.S. TRADE BILL. DELEGATES ALSO EXPECTED TO SPEND ONE DAY VISITING ALPART INSTALLATION.

3. COMMENT: OPENING ATTENDED BY BOTH AMB AND ECONOFF. MANLEY SPOKE BRIEFLY, APPEARED TIRED AND ALMOST DIS-INTERESTED. CONFERENCE HAMPERED BY FACT MINISTER FOR VENEZUELA ABSENT ON OPEC MATTERS, AND DELEGATES VOTED TO CLOSE SESSION ONE DAY EARLY. IN ABSENCE OF CHIEF VENEZUELA REP, CONFERENCE LIKELY TO ACHIEVE LITTLE ON KEY ISSUE OF ORGANIZATION'S FINANCING AND TO CONCEN-TRATE INSTEAD ON PROPAGANDA FOR OPEC COUNTRIES VIS-A-VIS TRADE BILL. CONFERENCE ATMOSPHERE IS THAT OF PLAY WITHOUT PRINCIPAL ACTOR, AND IT WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW TO WHAT EXTENT GOV PRE-PLANNED IT THIS WAY.
GERARD

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